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64th meeting
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at 4.50 p.m.
New York

SUMMARY RECORD OF THE 64th MEETING

Chairman: Mr. ZAHID (Morocco)
(Vice-Chairman)

Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions: Mr. MSELLE

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In the absence of the Chairman, Mr. Zahid (Morocco), Vice-Chairman, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 4.50 p.m.

AGENDA ITEM 145: FINANCING OF THE UNITED NATIONS OPERATION IN SOMALIA (continued)

UNOSOM II (A/47/916; A/C.5/47/L.37)

1. The CHAIRMAN pointed out that, in the English version of paragraph 10 of draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.37, "in paragraph 8" should read "in paragraph 9".

2. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) proposed that the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia should be mentioned in paragraph 9 of the draft resolution.

3. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to endorse the amendment proposed by Austria.

4. Mr. ELZIMAITY (Egypt) pointed out two errors in operative paragraphs 1 and 3 of the Arabic version of the draft resolution.

5. The CHAIRMAN said he took it that the Committee wished to adopt draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.37 without a vote.

6. Draft resolution A/C.5/47/L.37, as amended, was adopted.

7. Mr. INOMATA (Japan) said that his delegation had reluctantly joined in the consensus in order to facilitate the establishment of UNOSOM II. The Controller had stressed that the amount of the appropriation sought was not an approximation but represented as accurate an estimate as possible of the start-up cost of the operation. His delegation had taken note of that assurance and strongly urged the Secretariat to do its utmost to improve the quality of its estimates. It none the less wished to warn against the danger inherent in appropriating an arbitrary amount to finance the start-up of a peace-keeping operation.

8. Ms. ROTHEISER (Austria) said that her delegation had joined in the consensus on the understanding that the amount of $300 million which would be apportioned among Member States was a net amount, that the amount representing staff costs, yet to be determined, would be borne by the Member State concerned alone and that no other State would have to contribute to the cost of staff assessment for that particular operation or for subsequent operations. It was regrettable that the draft resolution adopted had not indicated whether the amount was a gross amount or a net amount. That being the case, it could not be considered a global amount. She recalled that the General Assembly had not yet taken a decision on the proposal to appropriate, in the initial phase of a peace-keeping operation, an amount equal to one third of the total budget of the operation. Hence, the decision that the Committee had just taken could not be considered a precedent.

9. Mr. MICHALSKI (United States of America) welcomed the adoption of the draft resolution, which had been preceded by a lengthy debate on the financing of peace-keeping operations. That subject was general and should not be considered in the context of a specific operation.

10. In his delegation's view, the appropriation of a global amount was acceptable when it came to financing the initial costs of a very large operation. However, the control mechanisms within the Secretariat should be strengthened to allay any fears that such an approach might cause to certain delegations. It would also be preferable for the Advisory Committee to submit its comments in writing in order to make the Committee's work easier. The procedures should be changed to ensure that no individual Member States would have to bear the cost of staff assessment.

11. Mr. KOCATÜRK (Turkey) said that Turkey, a troop-contributing country, was sure that the resources made available to UNOSOM II would enable it to take over from the Unified Task Force (UNITAF) and to contribute towards resolving the crisis in Somalia.

12. Mr. MSELLE (Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions), referring to the statement by the United States representative to the effect that ACABQ should have submitted a written report, said that ACABQ had decided to make an oral report to the Fifth Committee only because it had been led to believe that time constraints did not permit it to do otherwise. It had been informed that the matter was urgent. It had therefore considered the Secretariat's proposals late into the evening before the day on which the Fifth Committee was scheduled to meet and consider the matter.

The meeting rose at 5.20 p.m.